

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 7-10 and 15-23 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to nonelected inventions. Claims 1-12, and 15-23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application(s).

In the instant Amendment, claims 13 and 14 have been amended. In particular, claim 13 claims has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 14 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

New claims 24 - 27 have been added. New claim 24 corresponds to original claim 3. New claims 24-27 correspond to the species of claim 13. Additional support for these claims can be found throughout the specification as filed. No new matter is added.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 13-14 and 24- 27 are pending in this application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-6 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,774,278 to Ragheb et al. ("Ragheb") in view of Malfroy-Camine et al. (5,696,159, "Malfroy") and Shastri et al. (5,837,752, "Shastri"). *See*, Office Action at pages 2-3. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6 and 11-12 herein. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.



CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 13 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if written in independent form. As suggested by the Examiner, claim 13 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitations of originally filed claims 1 and 2, from which original claim 13 depended. Applicants note that as-filed claim 14 is in independent form. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this application that can be handled in a phone conference with Applicants' Attorneys, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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